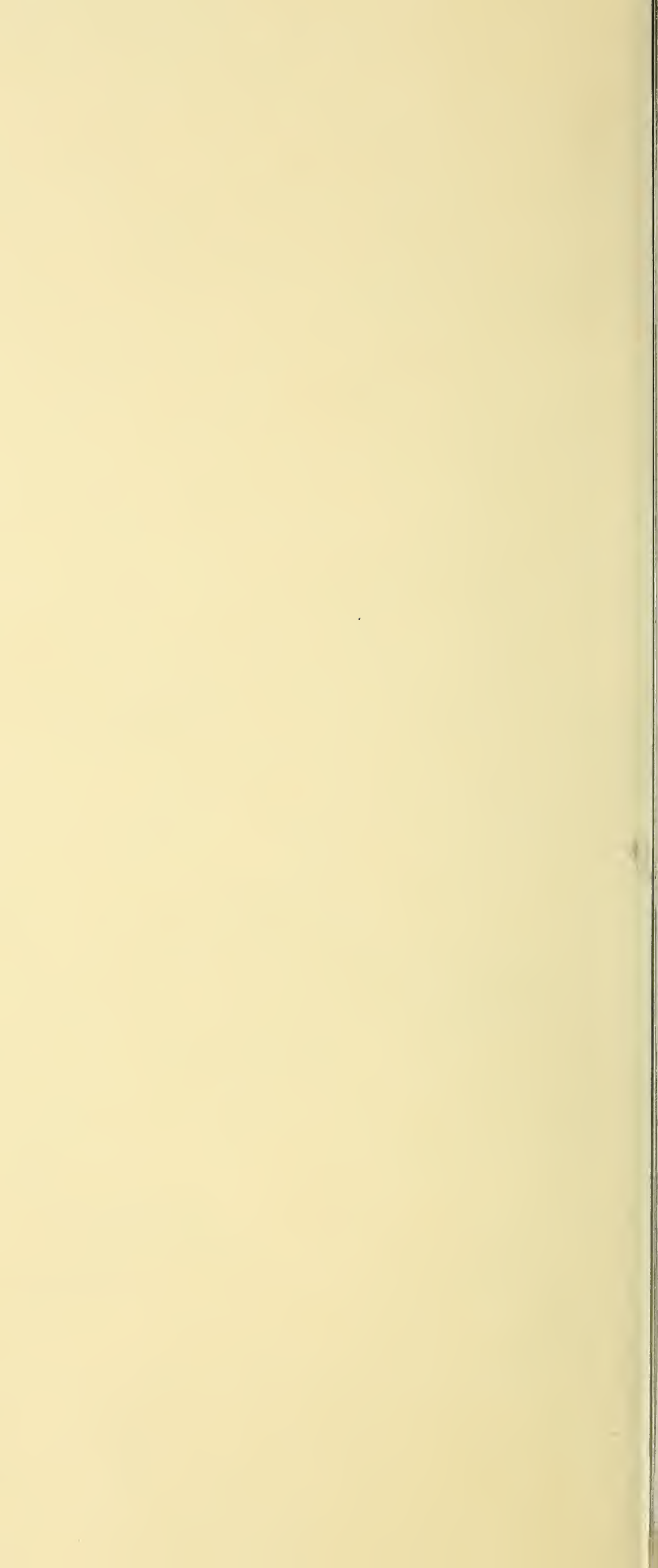


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PENDER - NEW HANOVER
COUNTY,



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1974

ANNUAL REPORT

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agriculture Stabilization
and
Conservation Service,
Burgaw, North Carolina
28425

OUR CREED

ASCS

WE AS MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ACCEPT OUR OBLIGATION AND OUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTY WELL AND IN FULL MEASURE. WE BELIEVE IT IS OUR DUTY.....

- * To administer faithfully the federal programs and functions assigned to us.
- * To put loyalty to the highest moral principles above loyalty to persons or party.
- * To serve the public with fairness, courtesy, integrity, and understanding.
- * To give a full day's labor for a full day's pay, giving to the performance of our duties earnest effort and our best thought.
- * To develop our personal resources by seeking always to improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of our work.
- * To be a good neighbor and a substantial contributor to the general welfare of our community, being mindful of the common source of all our blessings.

.....AND THUS DO OUR PART IN PERFORMING THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF THE GOVERNMENT, IN CONSERVING OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES, AND IN FURTHERING THE FREE AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF OUR COUNTRY.

FOREWORD

At the close of each year the Pender-New Hanover County ASC Committees publish an annual report to keep the public abreast of ASCS operations in the county. ASCS is an organization developed for the purpose of achieving the greatest protection and improvement of the natural resources of the farms of our nation. The goal of the organization at all times is to assure the farmer a fair share of the national income.

We have attempted to give a brief explanation of each of the programs administered by the Pender-New Hanover County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service during 1974. We hope that through this report we can promote a clearer understanding of ASCS's purpose and function.

We greatly acknowledge the efforts put forth by the community committeemen, farmers, other agricultural agencies, our District Director, and the State ASCS office staff to make our operation a success in the Pender-New Hanover County during 1974.

The Pender County ASCS Office is located in the county seat, Burgaw, North Carolina, on Highway 117A south. A sub-office is maintained in Wilmington, located in the Post Office Building at Front and Chestnut Streets. Our office hours are from 8:00 a. m., to 5:00 p. m. Monday through Friday in Pender and 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. Monday through Wednesday in New Hanover.

ADMINISTRATION

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is responsible for administering farm programs enacted by Congress and regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The programs administered by the Pender-New Hanover County ASCS Office in 1974 included the Cropland Adjustment Program, the Price Support Program, Production Adjustment Program and Compliance.

The State ASC Committee is composed of five members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The State Committee is responsible for ASCS policy determination at the State level. State ASCS offices are operated by state executive directors. Representatives from the state offices, known as district directors, serve county offices by districts. These men serve as liaison for state and county offices through their guidance on technical problems.

County ASCS offices are under the direction of county executive directors, who are hired by farmer-elected county committees. Elections are held annually for the purpose of electing a three-year man committee to serve the entire county, and a three-year man committee to serve each ASCS community in the county. Pender and New Hanover Counties consist of fourteen communities.

The County committee is responsible for determining ASCS policy within the regulations and State Committee policy. These determinations are carried out through the county executive director, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the county office. The community committeemen keep the farmers of the respective community informed about the various programs and serve in other capacities as may be necessary.

1974 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

NORTH CAROLINA STATE ASC COMMITTEE

Trenton B. Jordan.....Chairman
James P. Turlington.....Member
Eric P. Little.....Member
John R. Jones.....Member
Perry R. Lowe, Jr.....Member

STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

W. T. Reece

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Alfred Willetts

PENDER COUNTY COMMITTEE

DeLeon Fennell.....Chairman
James V. Eakins.....Vice-chairman
Neil C. Thomas.....Regular Member

NEW HANOVER COMMITTEE

John H. Covil.....Chairman
Albert D. Cox, Jr.....Vice-chairman
J. D. McCarley.....Regular Member

COUNTY OFFICE PERSONNEL

Casper Wells.....County Executive Director
Elsie J. English.....Counter Program Assistant (CAP)
Della M. Herring.....Program Assistant (ADM, PS)
Betty R. Lewis.....Program Assistant (Compliance)
Willia C. McGugan.....Program Assistant
Lucille P. Rivenbark.....Program Assistant (PA)

TEMPORARY OFFICE & FIELD EMPLOYEES

W. Lawrence Chadwick Howard N. Walker, Jr.

1974 ASC COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN

Listed in order of chairman, vice-chairman and regular member:

BURGAW UPPER	HOLLY
Thomas Cowan	Thurman Lanier
A. L. Rivenbark	Fred Harrell
James T. Wells	Denver Hollingsworth

BURGAW LOWER	LONG CREEK
Jerry Fedoronko	Pearly Crews
Alfred Overstreet	Jerry Fennell
John Leimone	Roy Barnhill

CANETUCK	ROCKY POINT
Henry Corbett	R. L. Batts
Alfred Pittman	J. C. Hutcheson
Eugene Pridgen	Charles Pearsall

CASWELL	TOPSAIL UPPER
Jack M. Woodcock	William Edens
Sidney Simpson	T. E. Batson
N. C. Corbett	Robert King

COLUMBIA UPPER	TOPSAIL LOWER
Carlos Cockman	T. W. Shingleton
L. T. Debose	J. W. Piver
Paul Wells	Henry Blake

COLUMBIA LOWER	UNION UPPER
George Highsmith, Jr.	John Farrior
E. T. Spencer, Jr.	James Giddens
A. C. Bond	Robbie Johnson

GRADY	UNION LOWER
Mack L. Bell	C. T. Carr
L. H. Caison	R. E. McCoy
Jay Porter, Jr.	C. Eugene Murray

COMPLIANCE

Compliance is one of the most important functions in ASCS. In 1967 a relatively new method of compliance was used in Pender and New Hanover counties and was continued through 1974. This method is known as Compliance by certification by the farmer. All farmers who had allotment crops or were participating in any of the farm programs were required to determine their acreage and report it to their local ASCS office during the specified period.

DATA FOR 1974

Staking and Referencing Service	27
Measurement Service	3

REGULAR COMPLIANCE PERFORMED

Name of Crop	No. of Farms Measured	No. of Farms that Certified
Peanuts	13	116
REAP	6	
CAP	1	14
Carryover Tob.	35	684
Feed Grain		
Wheat & Cotton		1500

PRICE SUPPORT

Price support programs are administered by ASCS to aid the farmer in obtaining fair prices for what he produces and to promote orderly marketing. County offices are authorized to make warehouse and farm storage loans. Price support was available on the following commodities: Corn, cotton, cottonseed, barley, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, rye, honey, peanuts, soybeans and wool.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY AND DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

Loans are made available to producers to finance the purchase of farm storage facilities and drying equipment. The maximum amount that can be loaned on needed farm storage is 70% of the cost. On drying equipment the maximum that can be loaned is 70% of the cost of applicant's needed drying equipment, or \$5,000, whichever is less. Loans are repayable in four installments over a five-year period. The first payment is due one year after the date of disbursement of the loan. Fire insurance for an amount sufficient to cover the unpaid balance due CCC on all multi-purpose drying equipment loans is required.

SUMMARY OF STORAGE STRUCTURE AND DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS DISBURSED 1974 DATA

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURE LOANS

Loans Disbursed.....	13
Loan Capacity....	65,019

DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

Loans Disbursed.....	4
Amount of Loans.....	\$14,242.73

FARM STORED COMMODITY LOANS

Price Support Programs are also administered by USDA to stabilize prices on farm commodities. Depending upon the commodity, farmers may obtain support price by loans and through sale of farm products. In the case of wool, direct payments are made through the incentive programs and price support payments are made directly to eligible participants under the cotton, feed grain, and wheat annual programs. Price Support rates are proclaimed by the Secretary of Agriculture each year.

FARM STORED COMMODITY LOANS 1974 DATA

Commodity	Number	Amt. Disbursed	Bushels
Corn	18	\$143,210.28	112,714
Soybeans	4	17,675.58	7,998

PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

GENERAL

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as enacted on February 6, 1938, contained the first authorization for our present acreage allotment and marketing quota program. The act authorizes acreage allotments and marketing quotas on wheat, tobacco, cotton, peanuts and rice.

Acreage allotment and marketing quotas were designed as a means of keeping supplies of agricultural commodities in line with demand. Marketing quotas must be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting in a referendum before they may be placed in effect. Marketing quotas are administered by use of farm acreage allotments; however, acreage allotments are required by law

for some commodities even though marketing quotas are not in effect. This is necessary in order to determine the farm's eligibility for price support when quotas are not in effect.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

Flue-cured tobacco is the number one cash crop in the county. The 1974 crop accounted for approximately \$5,000,000 of the total farm income in the county. The Acreage-Poundage Program put in effect in the county in 1965 was designed to bring production into better balance with demand, improve quality and stimulate exports. Price support was available on up to 110% of the farm's poundage quota.

1974 TOBACCO PROGRAM DATA

Number of allotments.....	1652
Number of acres allotted.....	3429.12
Total Basic quota.....	6,068,910
Pounds undermarketed.....	638,398
Pounds overmarketed.....	239,380
Total effective quota.....	6,413,230
Total acres harvested.....	2814.64
Total production.....	4,956,440
Lease and Transfer	
No. farms leasing tobacco.....	793
No. farms receiving leased tobacco.....	291
No. pounds leased.....	2,513,887

1974 FEED GRAIN AND WHEAT PROGRAMS

All that a feed grain and wheat producer had to do in 1974 to be eligible for target price assurance, loans, and other program benefits was to sign up. Conserving base requirements were suspended. Disaster payments were made when planting was prevented, or when total production was less than two thirds of the allotment times the program yields because of natural disaster conditions. Substitutions on non-quota crops were allowed for allotment preservation purposes. The loan level for corn was \$1.10 per bushel and \$1.37 for wheat. The target price for corn was \$1.38 per bushel and \$2.07 for wheat.

1974 DATA

No. Wheat Farms.....	263
County Wheat Allotment.....	8293
No. Feed Grain Farms.....	1768
Co. Feed Grain Allotment.....	16,541.0
Disaster Payment Applications Filed.....	4
Disaster Payment Applications Approved.....	4
Total of Disaster Payments.....	311.42

UPLAND COTTON

The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, enacted August 10, 1973, is applicable to the 1974-77 upland cotton crop years. Highlights of the 1974 upland cotton program were no marketing quotas or penalties, no limit on planted cotton acreage, no cropland set-aside requirement, no conserving base requirement, established or target price of 38 cents per pound and substitution of any nonconserving crop (except quota crops) or any conserving crop on cropland used for hay or grazing, to preserve allotment. However, cotton must have been planted to qualify for payment, except under certain disaster conditions.

There are 96 cotton farms with a total allotment of 179.5 acres in our county. No cotton was planted in 1974.

PEANUTS

Peanuts are considered one of the basis cash crops in our county. Peanut acreage allotments for individual farms are determined on the basis of the past acreage of peanuts, and previous acreage allotments. A referendum was held in December of 1974 for the 1975-77 crops of peanuts.

1974 PEANUT PROGRAM DATA

Number of allotments.....	194
Number of acres harvested.....	1462.8
Total acres harvested.....	1206.4
Total Production.....	2,129,398
Yield per acre.....	1765
Lease and Transfer:	
No. farms leasing peanuts.....	46
No. farms receiving leased peanuts.....	38
No. acres leased.....	285.1
Sale of peanut allotment:	
No. farms selling allotment.....	7
No. acres sold.....	24.0



Radio Station WVBS and TV Station WECT for their cooperation in covering our programs.

Other agricultural agencies for their unselfish cooperation in helping to make our programs a success.

And last, but by no means least, to the farmers of Pender-New Hanover Counties for their fine spirit of cooperation during 1974. We believe the understanding and public relations between the ASCS Office and farmers of Pender and New Hanover Counties are unmatched.

RECONSTITUTIONS

Farms must be reconstituted whenever:

- A. A change has occurred in the operation of the farm.
- B. An owner requests in writing that his land no longer be included in a multiple ownership farm.
- C. The farm is not properly constituted.

STATISTICS

Number Reconstitutions.....	60
In-County Transfers.....	0
Out-County Transfers.....	4

RECP

1974 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION

Annual RECP Allocation.....	\$10,499
Forestry Incentive Program Allocation.....	\$20,432
Long-Term Agreement Allocation.....	\$ 2,430
Total Allocation For County.....	\$33,361
Transferred To SCS.....	\$ 647
Cost-Share Assistance To Farmers.....	\$20,418
Small Cost-Share Increase.....	0
Gross Assistance To Farmers.....	\$20,418
Number of Participating Farms.....	10
Average Assistance Per Farm.....	\$ 2,041

REAP

1973 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION

County Allocation	\$43,516
Transferred To SCS	\$ 2,038
Number of Participating Farms	139
Cost-Share Assistance To Farmers	\$18,673
Small Cost-Share Increase	\$ 1,150
Gross Assistance To Farmers	\$19,823
Average Assistance Per Farm	143

There were 16 pooling agreements approved and completed for needed conservation practices under the 1973 REAP. There were 40 farms involved in the pooling agreements and the practice payment on these farms amounted to \$3,006.

CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Cropland Adjustment Program began in 1966, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with farmers to divert cropland normally used for the production of feed grain, allotment and non-allotment crops, to conserving and recreational uses.

The period of agreement is for 5 to 10 years. Farmers may receive cost-share payments for establishing an approved conservation or recreation practice. Annual adjustment payments are made each October for acreage placed under agreement.

The designated acreage must be maintained for the duration of the agreements to prevent erosion and control weeds and insects. No crops may be planted for harvest or harvested on the designated acreage. All allotment crops and feed grain bases for the farm under agreement must be in compliance as well as all other farms in which the producer has an interest.

In 1974, 14 annual payments were made, which amounted to \$4,782.32.

APPRECIATION

OUR SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO:

Pender County Board of Commissioners and taxpayers of Pender County for our conveniently located office.

State Office personnel who have been so cooperative and understanding in connection with our work.

Our District Director, Alfred Willetts, for his helpfulness, patience and understanding.

Community committeemen for their loyalty, cooperation and advice.

The Pender Chronicle and Pender Post for relaying to the public ASCS articles and news.

Vendors and others who have cooperated so faithfully.